

worldliness, pride, unsanctified song and worldly entertainments were substituted for the spirit of the lowly Nazarene. "Among the churches which wholly refused or abrogated this custom (feet-washing), the Spanish church is one, which in the council of Eliberis, made a canon against it." Among the churches which never received this custom we may reckon the Roman church; and among the churches which always received it the church at Milan." Bingham P. 562. Here the Roman church, the introducer of heresies, rejected feet-washing. It is a great pity that the church has put away this ordinance of humility and servitude because it is the great need of the church now.

III. The Gospel Contrasted With Much of the Present Day Teaching Upon This Subject

Christ: Ye ought to wash one another's feet.

Man: Ye ought NOT to wash one another's feet.

Christ: Ye should do what I have done to you.

Man: You should not do it.

Christ: They were not all clean because Judas was to betray him.

Man: They were not all clean because they wore sandals.

Christ: Ye ought to wash feet because I have given you an example and because the servant is not greater than his lord.

Man: They washed feet because they needed cleansing or only as a lesson of humility.

Christ gave his reasons for feet washing and we have no right to invent others to get out of obeying a plain commandment. We are forbidden to break the smallest commands of the Gospel. "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach men so shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:19. The human argument that Christ washed his disciples' feet because they wore sandals, and therefore a mere custom, is false for the following reasons:

1. What Christ did was new. The lord never washed his servants' feet; the contrary was the custom. Jesus taught a new doctrine that the greatest was to be servant of all and illustrated it by washing his disciples' feet. Hence new. John 13:34.

2 He did not wash their feet because they were unclean. (1) Two disciples were sent to prepare for the coming of the Master with his disciples. If they followed the custom they placed a basin of water at the entrance of that upper room and at the door they washed their feet before entering. Unless they broke this universal custom everyone, Master and all, had their feet washed before this ordinance was given. (2) If their feet were washed because they were unclean Christ would have washed his own as well as the disciples. This he did not do. (3) Christ said that Judas was unclean because he would betray Christ. His feet were

washed as well as the others but he was not clean, hence positive proof that he did not refer to unclean feet but to the heart.

3. Everything symbolized by feet-washing then—love, constant cleansing, humility, servitude—are as badly needed now, therefore we are bound to wash one another's feet or be rebels to the word of God.

Dear reader, remember that God greatly honors his word and will punish all who trifle with it. Don't let your church, your preacher, nor your friends keep you from obeying this commandment. You will not be judged by them at the last day but by the Word. God has made it plain, and all the excuses that may be urged against it in the day of judgment will fade away as the dew of the morning when the sun shines upon it.

Believe Christ when he says *Ye ought to wash one another's feet.*

Philadelphia, Pa.

RELIGION AND POLITICS

B. C. MOOMAW

The conjunction of these two words provokes an incredulous smile, for it has come to pass this long time that, in the estimation of a great many people, they have no dealings together. Politics, as we know it in this country of universal suffrage, keeps its eye upon one prime fact, and that fact is that a majority of the votes is the whole thing. And since Belial in all his guises, whether in the saloon guise, or the thief guise, or the prostitute guise, or in any, or in all, his protean forms, has votes a plenty at reasonable prices, politics pensions conscience and proceeds to get the votes, please God or please devil.

But a recent political meeting in a northern State has inaugurated a new role, for it came to pass that the said meeting was opened with prayer and wound up with a sermon. If the prayer was penitential, and consisted in the confession of sins, it must have been a long one. It is difficult to realize how there could have been time left in the same day for the nominations, and the sermon that followed, perhaps the parson abridged; he must have abridged. It may be he used the petition of the prayer book, to wit; "We have done the things we ought not to have done, and left undone the things we ought to have done." There would have been a strickly verbal fitness and a comprehensive accuracy in that confession. What the sermon was about, we are not told. Several texts would have been eminently suitable for the occasion; for example; "Thou shalt not steal." or; "Thou shalt not bear false witness." Quite a number of other texts would have been suitable for the moral and christian elements of the community, who by joining hands at the polls with the cohorts of satan become responsible for the saloon, the brothel, as well as a number of other iniquities. If the preacher grasped his opportunity, and was faithful to his divine commission, he must have waked up things in

that neighborhood. We have not heard that there are going to be any more political meetings of the pious order. They are not extensively advertised. For the most part, the primaries in our large cities are held in bar rooms, and it is a little unusual to hear the monotone of prayer, or the clarion of Gospel proclamation, in such places.

We have not learned to which political party the praying and preaching primary belonged. It is very doubtful whether it belonged to either of the two old parties, for a very little real religion would stampede either of them, or both together. Your pious primaries would be certain to frighten the saloon vote, and without the saloon vote neither of the old parties could win in an election. It must have been one of the minority parties, a third or a fourth or a fifth party, persistently hanging together in hopes of a speedy millennium to come along and put them in the majority.

There ought to be and there could be an infusion of religion into politics if professed Christians were faithful to their obligations. Multitudes of them desire to be faithful, but as yet they do not know how. Party prejudice and party fealty prevents that openness of mind which is essential to the right comprehension of a moral duty. Moral ignorance is bad enough, but an admixture of moral perversity makes the matter much worse. Behind the picture of a religious primary looms the possible defeat of my party, and that would never do. If the Lord would only consent to approve saloon supporting politics, what a heavenly time we would have in our political conventions. Then there would be prayers and sermons a plenty. Comes to politics, there is a tremendous competition in many Christian minds between the gospel of holiness and the gospel of success, with such a leaning toward the latter that it is not at all an uncommon spectacle to see the deacon and the devil cheek by jowl in the supreme effort of winning the victory for "our party."

But we prophesy the approaching day when conscience will enter politics, broom in hand. Lord hasten the day, and save our land from the overflowing of civic and and political iniquity.

WHO IS V. D. M.?

P. J. BROWN

A few days ago I received a letter poorly written with lead pencil mailed at Cedar Falls, Iowa. The writer said he had paid a visit to another part of the State and found things quite much out of order: that the minister in charge received a woman into the Brethren church who had been baptized by single immersion, and still worse, had himself baptized (?) a man by sprinkling, etc. The informant signs himself V. D. M. and gave no other name which badly spoiled with me at least the force of his complaint. Soon after I moved to Ohio from Virginia some thirty-five years ago, being then com-